

The O'Malley-Brown Administration: Making Maryland a More Just Place

“Over the last 8 years, our Administration and State have come together to make Maryland a more inclusive, more accepting, and more diverse place. We have made this state truly One Maryland.” – Governor O'Malley, May 15, 2014

Passed and Defended Marriage Equality

In 2012, [Maryland became the 8th state in the nation to expand marriage to include same-sex couples](#). That fall, Marylanders affirmed the new law at the ballot box, passing the Civil Marriage Protection Act 52% to 47%. Before the Civil Marriage Protection Act, Maryland was among the [first in the nation to recognize out-of-state marriages](#).



Outlawed Discrimination Against Transgender Marylanders

In one of his first acts, Governor O'Malley issued an Executive Order adding gender identity to the list of prohibited categories of discrimination for state employees. During the 2014 legislative session, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown worked to update Maryland's anti-discrimination law to include transgender people. The law covers employment, housing, credit and public accommodations, such as restaurants.

Extended Benefits to Same-Sex Couples

The Administration [extended health and retirement benefits to same-sex partners and spouses](#).

Ensured Equity for Same-Sex Couples' Joint Property

The O'Malley-Brown Administration helped ensure same-sex couples could own joint property without being penalized. The Administration also provided equal protection under Maryland's inheritance laws for same-sex couples.



Protected Joint Health Issues for Same-Sex Couples

Governor O'Malley ensured that same-sex couples could ride together in an ambulance, visit one another in the hospital, and make end-of-life decisions for one another.

As Mayor of Baltimore City, Gov. O'Malley Protected Transgender Baltimoreans

During his time as Mayor, Gov. O'Malley signed a bill that outlawed discrimination against transgender individuals in Baltimore; making it the first jurisdiction in the state to do so.